

port to Congress; jointly to the Committees on National Security and International Relations.

9084. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting four items of proposed legislation that address several concerns of the Department of Defense; jointly to the Committees on National Security and Transportation and Infrastructure.

9085. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting several drafts of proposed legislation that address several management concerns of the Department of Defense; jointly to the Committees on National Security and International Relations.

9086. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the 1997 annual report on the activities of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation relating to the supervision of banks or departments of banks that are operating as municipal securities brokers or dealers, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 78w(b); jointly to the Committees on Banking and Financial Services and Commerce.

9087. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare Program; Scope of Medicare Benefits and Application of the Outpatient Mental Health Treatment Limitations to Clinical Psychologists and Clinical Social Worker Services [HCF-A-3706-F] (RIN: 0938-AE99) received April 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Ways and Means.

9088. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program for Fiscal Year 1997, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3905(d)(2); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Government Reform and Oversight.

9089. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Government Ethics through fiscal year 2007, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1110; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Government Reform and Oversight.

9090. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's Fifth Biennial Report to the Congress, pursuant to Public Law 95-452, section 408 (102 Stat. 3032); jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Government Reform and Oversight.

9091. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the crude oil tanker ballast facility study, pursuant to Public Law 104-332, section 2(b)(2) (110 Stat. 4081); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Resources.

9092. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to reform and improve the administration of certain programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture, Ways and Means, and Commerce.

9093. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting proposals of legislation that address several management concerns of the Department of Defense; jointly to the Committees on National Security, Government Reform and Oversight, and the Judiciary.

9094. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting drafts of 2 proposals of legislation, to establish a more effective organization and financing structure for air traffic services and investments within the Federal Aviation Administration and to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation

Administration for fiscal years 1999–2002, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1110; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, the Budget, and Rules.

¶42.4 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 414. An Act to amend the Shipping Act of 1984 to encourage competition in international shipping and growth of United States exports, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 265. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the East Front of the Capitol Grounds for performances sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the Second Session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress, to be held in Nantucket, Massachusetts, May 14-18, 1998:

the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY); and

the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS).

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 100-696, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission:

the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON); and

the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT).

¶42.5 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MILLER of Florida, laid before the House a communication, which was read as follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, May 11, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 8, 1998 at 2:08 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits proposed legislation entitled the "Class-Size Reduction and Teacher Quality Act of 1998."

With warm regards,
ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.

¶42.6 CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION AND TEACHER QUALITY

The Clerk then read the message from the President, as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit today for your immediate consideration and enactment the "Class-Size Reduction and Teacher Quality Act of 1998." This legislative proposal would help States and local school districts recruit, train, and hire 100,000 additional well-prepared teachers in order to reduce the average class size to 18 in grades 1 through 3 in our Nation's public schools. It is an essential part of our overall effort to strengthen public schools throughout the Nation.

As schools across the Nation struggle to accommodate a surge in enrollments, educators and parents have become increasingly concerned about the impact of class size on teaching and learning, particularly in the critically important early grades, where students learn reading and other basic skills. This concern is justified: rigorous research confirms what parents and teachers have long believed—that students in smaller classes, especially in the early grades, make greater educational gains and maintain those gains over time. These gains occur because teachers in small classes can provide students with more individualized attention, spend more time on instruction and less time on discipline, and cover more material effectively. Moreover, the benefits of smaller classes are greatest for poor, minority, and inner-city children, the children who often face the greatest challenges in meeting high educational standards.

Smaller classes will have the greatest impact on student learning if the new teachers brought into the classroom are well qualified to teach reading and to take advantage of smaller learning environments. For this reason, my proposal emphasizes not just class-size reduction but also professional development for educators, and it will give school districts adequate time to recruit and train staff while phasing in smaller classes. Furthermore, all new teachers hired under the program would be required to pass a State teacher competency test and would also have to be certified to teach or be making satisfactory progress toward full certification.

We can help all of our students learn to read independently and well by the third grade, get a solid foundation in basic skills, and reach high educational standards if we start them off with small classes and well-prepared teachers in the early grades.

Under my proposal, the Department of Education would provide \$20.8 billion in mandatory appropriations over a 10-year period (beginning with \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 1999) to States. The States would then distribute the funds to local school districts based on their relative class sizes in grades 1 through 3, as well as on their ability and effort to finance class-size reductions with their own resources. The bill would provide States with considerable flexibility in distributing these funds, while ensuring that the most needy school districts receive a fair share.